

County of Santa Clara

Parks and Recreation Department

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www.parkhere.org



Santa Clara County
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



NOTICE OF PREPARATION **February 1, 2010**

PROJECT TITLE: MARTIAL COTTLE PARK STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN/ COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN

Santa Clara County is the lead agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is considering the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified above. We need to know the views of your agency or organization as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency or organization's statutory responsibilities or interest in connection with the proposed project. If you do not belong to an agency or organization, this notice has been sent to inform you that detailed planning for the Martial Cottle Park State Park General Plan/County Park Master Plan EIR is commencing and to provide you with an early opportunity to learn more about the project at the Public Information meeting and discuss the project. If you have issues that are important to you, a response to the Notice of Preparation will provide you the opportunity to request that the EIR identify those issues.

Your written response must be sent to the address no later than March 3, 2010, or no later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of this notice. We would appreciate the name of a contact person, name of agency/organization/other, and mailing address of a contact person to direct future correspondence.

Board of Supervisors: Donald F. Gage, George Shirakawa, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, Liz Kniss

County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Martial Cottle Park (the Park) is located in unincorporated Santa Clara County. The 256.64-acre Park is within the jurisdiction of Santa Clara County, but is surrounded by land within City of San Jose city limits. The Park consists of lands owned by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (Santa Clara County Parks). California State Parks and Santa Clara Parks are preparing a combined State Park General Plan/County Park Master Plan in compliance with the requirements set forth in Title 14 of the California Administration Code.

The regional and project locations of the Park are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively (attached). As shown in Figure 2, the Park is generally rectangular in shape with a “panhandle” that extends from the southwest corner. The Park is roughly bounded by Branham Lane to the north; Snell Avenue and the Park donor’s Life Estate to the east; Chynoweth Avenue, Colony Field Drive, and State Route 85 to the south; and Barron Park Drive, Birmingham Drive, and Vistapark Drive to the west. At the southeast corner of the site, the Life Estate remains in active use. The Park donor’s private residence is located on the Life Estate, as well as approximately 25 acres of actively-farmed land.

The Martial Cottle Park State Park General Plan/County Park Master Plan (the Plan) contains goals, guidelines, and objectives to guide the creation of the Park. The Plan also includes design guidelines for the design and construction of the following Park components: entrances and gates, architecture, fencing, roads, parking areas, trails and buffers, planning, landscape components, and signage. The establishment of the Park is intended to protect a piece of Santa Clara Valley’s history and provide an agricultural, recreational, and educational resource. The main uses of the Park would include agricultural production, habitat enhancement, visitor-serving and recreational facilities and trails, and educational and interpretive programming related to the site’s cultural and natural resources. The conceptual master plan for the Park is shown in Figure 3.

Over half of the Park would be in agricultural production to provide food primarily for local and regional markets. The Park would include on-site marketing opportunities for farmers, as well as facilities for produce storage, processing, and packaging. The Park’s natural resources would be enhanced through the restoration and enhancement of seasonal wetland habitat along the Canoas Creek channel, the retention of existing trees, and the establishment of diverse hedgerows. A small native plant nursery located on site would support on-site and regional habitat enhancement efforts. As part of the agricultural education programming, the Park would include interpretive and other signage along trails and at key points of interest, demonstration gardens, community gardens and urban forestry program areas, and youth agricultural facilities. Recreational activities within the Park would be passive, supported by a trail network through agricultural land and through the enhanced seasonal wetlands, and by picnic grounds and day use facilities. A visitor center, multi-use outdoor pavilion, grassy park, and picnic areas would serve as community space for events and gatherings.

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The Park would be developed in a series of phases. Phase 1, extending from 2010 to 2019, would focus on establishing basic infrastructure and facilities to enable farming operations to be initiated as well as necessary improvements to allow for public access and limited recreational activities. Phase 1 improvements would include:

Parkwide Circulation and Access

- ◆ Design and construct the main Park entrance, including entry sign, landscaping, entry kiosk, paved entry road, and the primary public parking area.
- ◆ Establish at least one service/emergency entrance and develop unpaved service roads. Signage, gates, and fencing should be included.
- ◆ Design and construct multi-use trails and non-vehicular access points, including buffer landscaping pedestrian gates, dog courtesy stations, and other support facilities.

Parkwide Utilities

- ◆ Design and construct a water, electricity and gas infrastructure that includes meters and that allows for flexibility in park leasing.
- ◆ Design and construct an underground electrical supply system that includes meters and that allows for flexibility in park leasing.

Park and Recreation Areas

- ◆ Establish utility connections that will be necessary to support Park uses.
- ◆ Design and construct the visitor center complex, including gathering spaces, meeting rooms, staff offices and restrooms.
- ◆ Develop approximately five acres of developed open space in proximity to the visitor center. This area should provide opportunities for passive recreation, including picnicking.
- ◆ Develop a corporation yard and potential on-site caretaker residence to support Park activities. The corporation yard should include security fencing, security lighting, and temporary mobile trailer.
- ◆ Establish buffer areas in association with multi-use trails and initiate landscape improvements to these areas.
- ◆ Develop an interpretive program and signage program for the Park.
- ◆ Provide limited interpretive elements, such as panels, displays and programs.

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- ◆ Provide signage to orient Park visitors, including informational and directional signage, regulatory signage, and Park maps.
- ◆ Develop adequate restrooms to accommodate level of use.

Leased Agriculture Areas

- ◆ Address the repair, maintenance and upgrade of the well located on State Parks property in order that the well may be utilized irrigation of agricultural areas.
- ◆ Develop and release Request for Proposals from farmers/lessees.
- ◆ Establish management structure for agricultural operations.
- ◆ Initiate soil improvement/preparation activities.
- ◆ Establish basic infrastructure for irrigation, water, sewer, electricity and other utilities.
- ◆ Develop an agricultural corporation yard.
- ◆ Provide security fencing around areas to be farmed.

Cooperative Management Areas

- ◆ Establish relationships with potential cooperative partners, including the City of San Jose, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), Our City Forest, and others.
- ◆ Designate areas for agricultural research, youth agriculture, demonstration gardens, and urban forestry.
- ◆ Provide utility connections, gates, fencing and other basic infrastructure to enable cooperative partners to occupy designated areas.

Subsequent development phases would extend approximately ten to fifteen years beyond Phase 1. Subsequent phases would be necessary to complete park components initiated during Phase 1, such as interpretive programming and recreational open space areas, and to develop other components of the Plan that would not yet have been initiated, such as the seasonal wetland area, native plant nursery, and multi-use outdoor pavilion.

POSSIBLE EFFECTS AND MITIGATIONS: The project would have potential effects on aesthetics; agricultural and forest resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural, historical, and archaeological resources; energy; geology and soils; greenhouse gas emissions; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; noise; public services; recreation; transportation and traffic; and utilities and service systems. In most cases, it is anticipated that these potential effects would either be minor, avoided through careful planning and coordination, or would utilize mitigation measures and policies

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to reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. The EIR will address these environmental issues in detail and outline any mitigation measures required to reduce potentially significant effects. In cases where potentially significant impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through mitigation, significant and unavoidable impacts would be identified. CEQA allows environmental issues for which there is no likelihood of a significant impact to be “scoped out,” and not analyzed further in the EIR. Initial studies of the project have determined that the project would not have an effect on mineral resources or population and housing. Therefore, these issues would not be analyzed in detail in the EIR.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and the California Department of Parks and Recreation have implemented an active involvement program for the planning and development of Martial Cottle Park. A Public Information meeting will take place on **Wednesday, February 10, 2010** between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm at Gunderson High School, 622 Gaundabert Lane, Forum/Cafeteria, San Jose, California, 95136-2830. An overview of the design concepts and project implementation will be presented and the planning team will accept comments and questions from the public. Notices associated with the project’s CEQA review are available at the following websites.

California State Parks’ CEQA Notices website:

<http://www.parks.ca.gov>

Santa Clara County Parks’ Martial Cottle Park Master Plan Project website:

<http://www.parkhere.org>

PLAN DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Once written and prepared, the Martial Cottle Park State Park General Plan/County Park Master Plan Draft EIR will be made available for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA. The Draft EIR will then be refined, and responses to public comments will be prepared. A Final EIR with appropriate revisions and responses to comments will then be submitted for review and consideration by the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) Committee of the County Board of Supervisors, before the Final EIR and the Park Plan are forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for adoption/certification of the Final EIR and project approval. Once County approvals are obtained, the project would be submitted to the California State Park and Recreation Commission for their consideration and project approval.

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**SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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Source: Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, April 2008, Martial Cottle Park Final Resource Inventory, page 1-5.

FIGURE 1
REGIONAL LOCATION



FIGURE 2

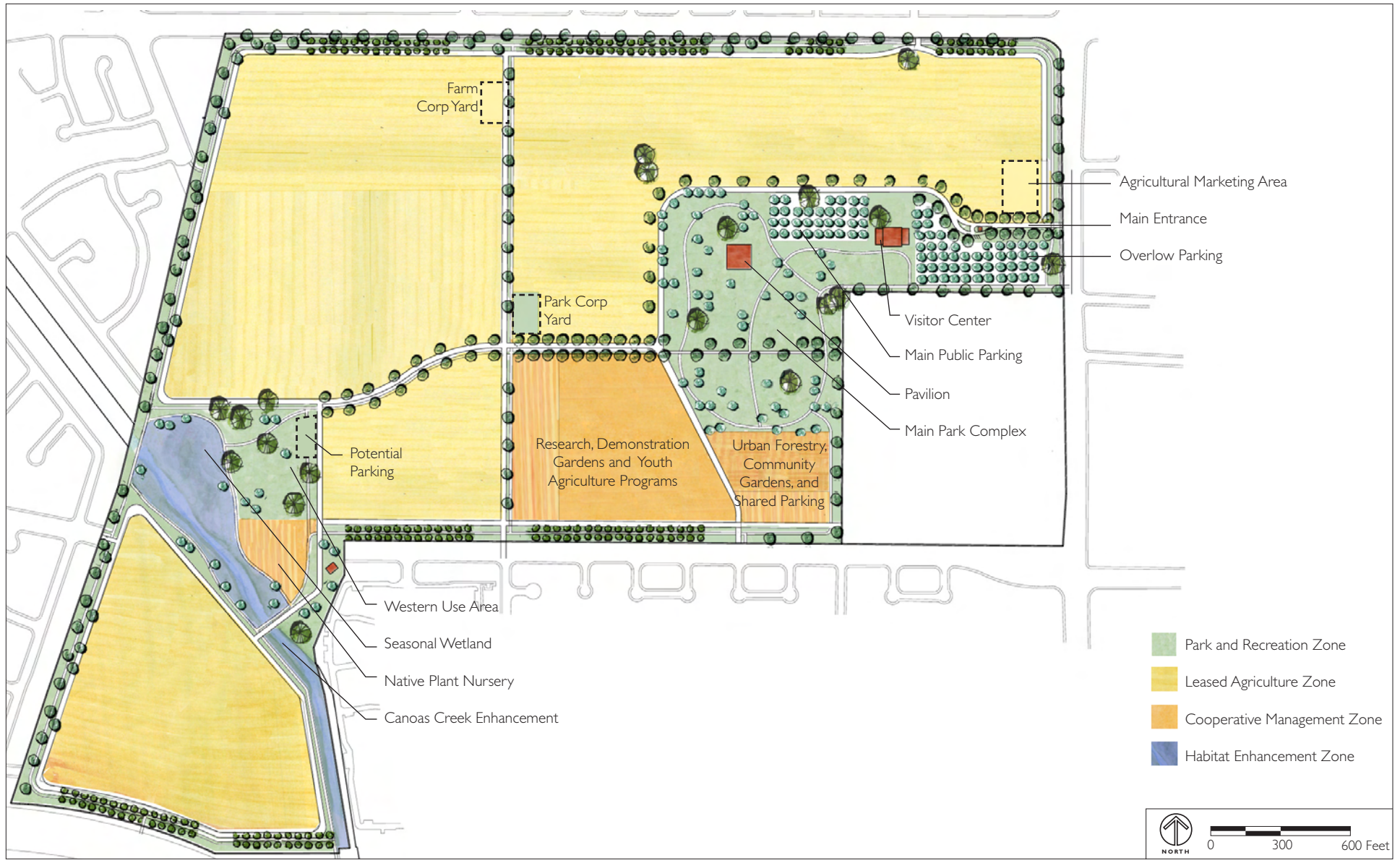


FIGURE 3